

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows.

**At page 1 after the title, insert:**

RELATED APPLICATIONS:

**Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, with the following:**

**BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to a debarking mechanism for the excortication or pretreatment of trees for separately performed final barking and for the expulsion of at least some of the removed barks from a wood flow passing through the debarking mechanism, said debarking mechanism comprising a number of rotatable debarking shafts extending parallel to the advancing direction of the trees to be fed therethrough, which are provided with a number of teeth extending beyond the circumferential surface of the shaft and adapted to strip bark off the presently processed trees transversely to the lengthwise direction of the trees and at the same time to convey the trees transversely relative to said shafts, and said shafts, together with the teeth thereof, being adapted to constitute at least a section of a support surface, upon which the presently processed trees travel through the debarking mechanism, and said shafts being adapted to each other in such a way that the processed trees perform a circular motion in the debarking mechanism, in which motion the trees are forced upon the support surface constituted by the debarking shafts, by the action of their rotatory motion, in their turn into the upper position, from which they roll down to the lower position above the other trees being processed in the debarking mechanism.

**Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9 with the following:**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

**Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 with the following:**

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

The debarking mechanism 1 shown in the drawings is intended for the excortication or pretreatment of trees 2 for separately performed final barking and for the expulsion of at least some of the removed barks from a wood flow passing through the debarking mechanism. The debarking mechanism 1 is provided with a number of rotatable debarking shafts 3, 3' extending parallel to the advancing direction A (fig. 1) of the trees 2 to be fed therethrough, said debarking shafts having each end thereof pivoted to the end plates 13 (fig. 1) at the ends of the debarking mechanism 1. To rotate the shafts 3, 3', one end or both ends are provided with for example a sprocket 14. The shafts 3, 3' are rotated in the direction of the pile 5 (fig. 2).

**Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following:**

In the state-of-the-art figures 1 and 2 there is a fingerplate 11 adapted to above the uppermost debarking shaft 3', the purpose of said fingerplate being to prevent the trees from getting wedged between the uppermost debarking shaft 3' and the side wall of the debarking mechanism 1. The barks can usually get out from between the debarking shaft 3' and the fingerplate 11 or between two debarking shafts 3 and fall down onto the bark conveyor below (not shown).